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IRAN

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- I. Premier Eqbal's resignation (28 August) has cleared way for attempt to improve relations with USSR. The Iranian press is widely proclaiming that the Soviet-Iranian cold war is ending and alluding to the possibility of Soviet economic aid.
- A. Radio Moscow halted its propaganda attacks on the Shah on 31 August (although some clandestine radio attacks continue) and Iranians have halted their counter-propaganda.
- B. New Premier Sharif-Emami stated to Ambassador Wailes that his objective is to improve relations with USSR without imperiling Iran's relations with West.
- C. Foreign Minister Azodi will probably seek talks with Khrushchev during UN session, according to Iranian Deputy Prime Minister Forughi. Forughi is worried over Azodi's ability to deal with Khrushchev.
- D. Soviet Ambassador Pegov's return to Iran indicates Moscow believes it possible that Iran will make concessions. Pegov will probably offer attractive economic aid.
- E. Shah is in a mood similar to that of January 1959 when, disappointed by what he regarded as lack of support from allies, he entered into negotiations with USSR for non-aggression treaty. Emami and cabinet ~~probably are too weak to stand up to Soviet pressures in the same manner as former Premier Eqbal.~~ SEEM WEAK AND WILL PROBABLY NOT STIFFEN THE SHAH'S POSTURE TOWARDS SOVIETS IN WAY THAT EQBAL DID

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- II. Shah's attempt to extricate himself from blame for election fiasco apparently has failed and opposition elements are taking full advantage of the Shah's difficulties.
- A. No date yet set for new elections.
 - B. Public believes interim government is as subservient to Shah as previous one.
 - C. The Shah's actions probably will not increase significantly the longer run chances for the regime's survival.

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